**14123, Jennifer Andrews**

"WHY KIDS NEED TO BE VACCINATED"

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen,

Contagious disease outbreaks have been recorded as early as 900 and Vaccinations against those diseases are recorded as early as 1000. Before the U.S. mumps vaccination program started in 1967, about 186,000 cases were reported each year. Since the pre-vaccine era, there has been a more than 99% decrease in mumps cases in the United States, according to the CDC at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Since 2000 measles cases have averaged between 100-200 cases a year but in 2014 they soared to more than 600 with more than 120 cases already in 2015. Most of these cases have been caused by someone coming into this country who has not been vaccinated. Once introduced the diseases have been spread by unvaccinated people in this country who contracted the disease.

For centuries people of all ages who contracted diseases such as measles, mumps, polio and rabies died or had greatly reduced health because there was no treatment or vaccine. But, childhood vaccinations have been the norm for many years now and with that a marked decrease in childhood diseases. Just recently at a KinderCare in Cook County Illinois discovered six infants had been infected by measles when an unvaccinated child came to the daycare. These infants were too young to be vaccinated so their health was compromised by someone else not being vaccinated.

I realize that some people do not believe in either being vaccinated themselves or having their children vaccinated. Many come into the U.S. from countries where vaccinations are not readily available. Some choose not to receive vaccinations because of reports that have been debunked by most of the medical community that vaccinations cause disorders such as autism. Some are for religious reasons. Although I respect people to make their own choices for most things, this choice affects innocent victims such as these infants who are too young to be vaccinated. It’s not right for people to make such a momentous decision as this and then carelessly travel about spreading the contagion.

Although I don’t claim to have all the answers, I can give you some examples of the decisions of some people to protect them and their families against those who refuse to be vaccinated. Many parents make it plain that if you or your child is not vaccinated then you cannot be around them and their children. Daycares, such as KinderCare, are making it a rule that if you work around young children you must be vaccinated to protect these young innocents who are too young to receive the vaccine. Some doctors are refusing to treat patients who have not been vaccinated so as not to bring a contagion into their office where they have young innocents who, once again, are too young to protect themselves by being vaccinated.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that everyone should be vaccinated against these contagious diseases, not only for their own protection, but for the protection of young innocents who are too young to receive the vaccine. No conclusive evidence has been found to decry vaccinations for all so they should not be discontinued. If a parent thinks the vaccine may be harmful to them or their children they should seek medical help to be tested for any sensitivity to the ingredients of the vaccine. And, I firmly believe, that anyone coming into this country from somewhere that vaccines are not available they should either be required to be vaccinated or quarantined until it is determined they are not carrying any infectious disease.

Thank you

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

[www.historyofvaccines.org](http://www.historyofvaccines.org)